

## **WASHINGTON STATE PATROL**

QUARTERLY REPORT FOR AGENCY BUREAUS

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2006







Technical Services Bureau







Fire Protection Bureau

For questions reference this document, please contact:

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## **Message from the Chief**

I am very pleased to present you with the Washington State Patrol's Quarterly Report for the third quarter of 2006. This report features some of the accomplishments of each of our six agency bureaus: *Management Services, Technical Services, Field Operations,* Forensic Laboratory Services, Fire Protection, and Investigative Services.

During the third quarter, the WSP partnered with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Seattle Police Department to launch a new record system to help officers and troopers identify armed career criminals who possess firearms. At no additional cost to citizens of the state, this enhanced system serves as

another tool to bridge the gap and help protect our communities from armed career criminals. This is accomplished by providing faster information to all law enforcement officers throughout the state, increasing safety and removing these dangerous criminals from the streets.

In an effort to streamline coordination and services provided, the WSP has created two new divisions:

The *Homeland Security Division*, which will help centralize functions and accountability for agency homeland security responsibilities. This new transition brings together many of the responsibilities that Vessel and Terminal Security and the Fire Protection Bureau had in the past, and will enable us to better address important homeland security issues in the future. The new division will centralize homeland security functions under the Investigative Services Bureau and will ensure a streamlined communication link internally within the Patrol and externally with local, state, and federal agencies.

In addition, we have created a *Missing and Unidentified Person's Unit*. This unit assists law enforcement agencies and parents in locating missing children and adults. They maintain and operate a toll-free, twenty-four-hour telephone hotline and coordinate investigative resources with state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies to facilitate the recovery of missing persons. They serve as a central repository for dental, DNA, and human remains information regarding missing persons through dental and X-ray analysis and interpretation conducted by the unit's volunteer forensic Odontologist, Dr. Gary Bell DDS, DABFO.

I could not be prouder of the hard work of all WSP employees who dedicate themselves to public safety. I invite you to read about the achievements of all of our bureaus in this report, and I encourage you to direct your comments and questions to me at <a href="mailto:questions@wsp.wa.gov">questions@wsp.wa.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

CHIEF JOHN R. BATISTE

John R. Batrice

On the cover:

Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau: Forensic Scientist 3 Brian J. Smelser, Marysville Crime Laboratory; Field Operations Bureau: Sergeant Albert Escalara, Marysville; Technical Services Bureau: Edward G. Thomas, Information Technology Specialist 4, Electronic Services Division, Olympia; Investigative Services Bureau: Mei-Ping Murray, Office Assistant 3, Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit, Olympia; Fire Protection Bureau: Deputy State Fire Marshal Lyall H. Smith, Olympia; Management Services Bureau: Jennifer F. Montague, Management Analyst 3, Strategic Planning and Performance Section, Olympia.

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The *Field Operations Bureau (FOB)* is
primarily responsible for
traffic law enforcement,
collision investigation,
and motorist assists on
17,524 miles of state and

Brian A. Ursino Assistant Chief Field Operations

interstate highways. The bureau is comprised of eight districts and the Commercial Vehicle Division (CVD).

## **Program Description**

FOB's redefined "Core Mission" focuses on four elements: *Traffic Law Enforcement*, *Criminal Interdiction and Terrorism Prevention*, *Collision Investigation*, and *Roadside Assistance*. This Core Mission has been in effect for one year.

By bringing focus to looking beyond the traffic stop, we have a greater impact on addressing some of the crimes that have the most adverse impact on our quality of life. District commanders have more flexibility, under Traffic Law Enforcement, to tailor their enforcement and education concepts to the needs of the communities they serve. Washington State is in the top ten nationally in auto theft, identity theft, and methamphetamine drug usage.

All members of the bureau are held accountable to the Core Mission through the *Strategic Advancement Forum* (SAF) process. Each month, commanders report on their successes and challenges involved in improving traffic safety in their assigned areas. Traffic stop, collision, and resource allocation data is analyzed and discussed each month to ensure personnel are properly addressing the issues unique to their areas.

## **Qualitative or Quantitative Measurement**

The table below reflects the results of our efforts in the third quarter of 2006, compared to the third quarter of 2005:

	3rd Quarter 2006	3rd Quarter 2005	Difference	Percent Change
Field Force FTEs	577	583	6	-1%
DUI	5,216	4,860	356	7%
Aggressive Driving	17,445	14,965	2,480	17%
Speed Arrests	82,631	68,685	13,946	20%
Speed Contacts	125,755	140,507	14,752	-10%

Source: WSP Selected Agency Statistics as of 10/13/06

	3rd Quarter 2006	3rd Quarter 2005	Difference	Percent Change
Occupant Protection (Citations)	13,684	14,820	1,136	-8%
Occupant Protection (Contacts)	16,194	19,933	3,739	-19%
<b>Total Violator Contacts</b>	320,012	350,757	30,745	-9%
Contacts per FTE	555	602	47	-7%

Source: WSP Selected Agency Statistics as of 10/13/06

The total collisions in the third quarter of 2006 compared to the third quarter of 2005 have decreased slightly (-4%). More importantly, injury collisions are down by -11%; however, fatality collisions increased 9%. For the first half of 2006, there has been a 1% increase in fatal collisions investigated by the WSP as compared to the first half of 2005.

	3rd Quarter 2006	3rd Quarter 2005	Difference	Percent Change
Total Reportable Collisions	8,090	8,431	341	-4%
Fatal Collisions	113	104	9	9%
Injury Collisions	2,647	2,974	327	-11%
Property Damage	5,330	5,353	23	0%

Source: WSP Selected Agency Statistics as of 10/13/06

Commercial Vehicle Division	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2006	3rd Quarter 2005	Difference	Percent Change
Inspections	28,575	29,875	1,300	-4%
Vehicles Out of Service	4,554	3,686	868	23%
<b>Drivers Out of Service</b>	2,385	2,579	194	-7%

Source: WSP Commercial Vehicle Division as of 10/13/06

## **Significant Accomplishments**

Here are some of our third quarter 2006 significant accomplishments:

• The most recent survey data released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) indicates seat belt compliance in Washington has risen from 95% to 96.3% statewide, the highest usage rate in the United States. Seat belt compliance is 97% or higher on state highways patrolled by the WSP. While Washington rates the highest in the nation in seat belt usage, collision data shows the

remaining 3.7% of individuals not utilizing their occupant restraints are involved in over 45% of all traffic fatalities in Washington State; therefore, the WSP will continue to actively enforce the seat belt laws until we increase the usage rate statewide to 100%.

- Since 1998, the WSP has combined the traditional response to public safety problems with the philosophy of Problem Oriented Public Safety (POPS). POPS brings the State Patrol, citizens, and other stakeholders together to overcome safety challenges and is based on:
  - Problem Solving using a model called SARA (*scanning*, *analysis*, *response*, *assessment*); and
  - 2. Partnerships (engaging stakeholders and citizens in the problem-solving process).

There are currently 41 open POPS projects in FOB. These include:

- Statewide Motorcycle Fatalities
- Rest Area Problems Federal Way
- SR-7 Corridor Project
- License Fraud Vancouver
- SR-243 Collisions Mattawa
- SR-97 Pedestrian Violations Brewster
- SR-101/I-5 Collisions Olympia
- I-5 Speeding Marysville
- The WSP recognizes the value of the police motorcycle as a specialized traffic enforcement tool. Motorcycle detachments are located in Bellevue, Tacoma, Marysville, and Vancouver. Additional motorcycles are assigned to Bremerton, Spokane, and Kennewick. WSP motor officers supported the agency's mission in 2005 by making 45,989 speed arrests and 5,384 seat belt arrests.

The WSP made significant investments recently in the motorcycle program with the purchase of twelve 2006 BMW R1200 RT-P motorcycles for traffic enforcement use, along with wireless headsets and M/A-Com M7100 motorcycle radios. The new radios and helmet headsets will be installed on the new 2006 BMWs first, followed by retrofitting the remaining motorcycle fleet.

Motorcycle operator training was revised in 2006 by combining the three-day BMW transition course into the two-week basic operator class. In the past, officers trained for two weeks on Kawasaki Police 1000 motorcycles and returned to the Academy to train for three days on the BMW. For the first time, training staff successfully incorporated the BMW transition exercises into the two-week basic course. The Patrol also purchased eight BMW training motorcycles for use with future classes. This improvement reduces training time and allows for vehicle-specific training to enhance rider skill and safety.

# Taking a longer view: Agency 36-month rolling comparison (October 2000 – September 2003 vs. October 2003 – September 2006)

A long-range look at the efforts of FOB personnel reveals their hard work and dedication are *making a difference every day.* Most importantly, fatal and injury collisions continue to reveal a downward trend toward our ultimate goal of zero.

#### Outputs or Efficiencies

- FTEs are down 18% (101 9/03 vs. 9/06)
- DUI arrests are up 29% (14,658)
- Speeding citations are up 19% (122,332)
- Seat belt citations are up 3% (6,223)
- Seat belt compliance rate 96.3% (97% or higher on interstates and state routes)
- Aggressive driving citations are up 103% (102,320)
- Felony and misdemeanor drug arrests are up 31% (6,157)
- Commercial vehicle total contacts are up 13% (57,401)
- Commercial vehicle inspections are up 23% (70,416)
- Total traffic stops are up 3% (115,047)

#### • Outcomes or Effectiveness

- Total collisions are up 5% (5,319)
  - Total fatal collisions are down 7% (-70)
  - Total interstate fatalities are down 14% (-29)
  - Total state route fatalities are down 4% (-25)
- Total injury collisions are down 4% (-1,267)
  - Total interstate injury collisions are down 6% (-795)
  - Total state route injury collisions are down 2% (-354)



The Management
Services Bureau (MSB)
is responsible for
management of all agency
financial activities;
preparation, justification,
and allotment of the
department's operating and capital

Diane C. Perry, CPA
Bureau Director
Management Services

budgets; fiscal notes on proposed legislation; human resource services; completion of agency strategic planning, accreditation, studies, research, performance measures, and regulations; audits and inspections, public records, records

retention, and forms management; and oversight of the training academy in Shelton.

## **Program Description**

The WSP just completed its on-site visit by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) assessors. This was an overwhelming success. The assessors were especially complimentary of the static display, the panel presentations, and the organization of the files.

By remaining accredited through CALEA, the WSP demonstrates to staff, the Legislature, and the citizens of Washington State the following:

- The WSP is a professional organization that has appropriate policies and follows them.
- The WSP strives for excellence in service delivery as well as administrative procedures.
- The WSP is responsive to citizens.

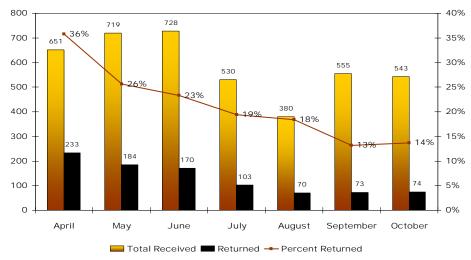
MSB would like to thank all who contributed to the success of this endeavor—the divisions/districts that provided proofs of compliance; the volunteers who worked tirelessly on the files; and the staff of the Strategic Planning and Performance Section for their diligence, attention to detail, and leadership of this process.

## **Qualitative or Quantitative Measurement**

In March 2006, the agency implemented a new automated Travel Voucher System (TVS) for processing agency travel claims. Shortly after implementation, we discovered there were an abnormally large number of travel claims being rejected due to employee errors. We began measuring this error rate in April 2006 and focusing on training employees and supervisors to reduce the error rate.

The return rate has been reduced from 36% in April 2006 to 14% in October 2006.

#### Monthly Travel Voucher Returns



## **Significant Accomplishments**

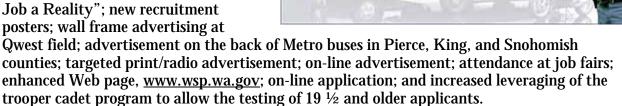
In an effort to meet the current and future trooper cadet hiring needs, the Human Resource Division (HRD) implemented a new marketing and recruiting initiative in August 2006. This initiative included new, creative, and innovative ways to educate the public and draw quality applicants to the WSP.

This initiative included offering the first Academy Open House in August 2006; development of a new recruitment theme, "Make Your Dream Job a Reality"; new recruitment posters; wall frame advertising at

Make Your Dream Job a Reality

Be A Trooper!

Click here to find out more.

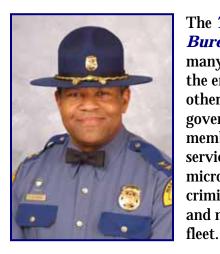




As a result of these efforts, HRD processed 806 trooper cadet applications from August to November 2006. This is a 99.5% increase in received applications in comparison to the previous four months. HRD also successfully hired 54 trooper cadets for the December Arming Class.

HRD will continue its aggressive marketing and recruitment campaign to ensure the WSP's hiring

goals are achieved. In order to meet the WSP's current attrition rate and future hiring needs, the WSP will need to hire 52 trooper cadets every nine months.



The *Technical Services* **Bureau (TSB)** provides many diverse services to the entire department, other law enforcement and government agencies, and members of the general public. The services include information technology; electronic and microwave system services; emergency communications;

Les M. Young **Assistant Chief Technical Services** 

## **Program Description**

Public safety and criminal justice providers throughout Washington State access a national crime information database and criminal history database operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for investigative and identification data. These systems are known as the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the Interstate Identification Index (III).

criminal history; comprehensive facilities management; purchasing and management of supplies; and management of the WSP vehicle

The WSP's Criminal Records Division manages similar systems at the state level known as the Washington Crime Information Center (WACIC) and the Washington State Identification System (WASIS), collectively referred to as W2. Virtually all law enforcement agencies use the W2 system to enter and query criminal information and criminal history data. The WASIS information (criminal history) is used by courts for sentencing purposes and by hundreds of public and private organizations for licensing and hiring decisions.

**NCIC 2000 Project:** The FBI made upgrades to their original crime database, now known as NCIC 2000, and has required states to make similar changes to their respective criminal history and crime information systems. With a \$2.46 million Department of Homeland Security grant, a TSB team of employees from the Information Technology Division, Electronic Services Division, and Criminal Records Division collaborated to make the changes necessary to conform to the new FBI standards.

Working under a short timeline, this team recently completed a conversion of WACIC files (wanted, missing, protection order, vehicle, gun, etc.) to the new FBI format and added two new files (Image and Identity Theft Victim). The team also completed a requirement to provide data encryption between local agencies and the WSP's ACCESS (A Central Computerized Enforcement Service System) communication switch.

Some of the new information that can now be entered in the various files includes DNA and DNA location, caution and medical conditions, originating agency hit notification, vehicle ownership data, hazardous materials container, and expiration date field for warrants.

Other new features of NCIC 2000 include the following:

- Images can be attached to person and property records to assist in identifying wanted and missing persons and stolen property.
- Identity theft victim information, including victim profiles, can be entered.
- Missing persons not meeting existing criteria can be entered.
- The new expanded name search interchanges all parts of the inquiry name.
- Related search hit returns all records with the same originating agency identifier (ORI) and case number (OCA).
- Multiple records (wanted person, stolen vehicle, stolen gun, etc.) can be linked and returned using the new "related search hit" inquiry.
- Warrant expiration date field eliminates the need to reenter misdemeanor warrants every five years.
- The Corrections Client File has been merged into the NCIC 2000 "Supervised Release" File.
  - Automatic notifications may now be sent to supervising officers when a supervised individual is contacted by law enforcement anywhere in the nation.

Using the new related search hit capability, investigators will be able to retrieve all records linked with the same originating agency identifier (ORI) and case number (OCA). For example, a burglary suspect can be linked to the gun and computer stolen in the burglary

along with a stolen vehicle. Another feature allows multiple jurisdictions to link cases involving the same person and property.

These new features of NCIC 2000 and increased data security resulting from this project will assist all law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in their mission to improve public safety to Washington citizens.



#### **Project Team**

#### Team members from left to right:

Back Row: Jon Bac, Steve Collins, Jeff Nuxoll, Al Lane, Steve Cole, Josh Napier Middle Row: Jim Manong, Dan Tormanen, Sharon Trivett, Elaine Hale, Kateri Anderson, Heather Anderson, Vani Chunduru, Rose Clowers Front Row: Jerri McCoy, Kathy Paulson, Assistant Chief Les Young Not Present: Cindy Dalesky, Jannice Gordon, Diane Harrison, Stu Lundmark

## **Qualitative or Quantitative Measurement**

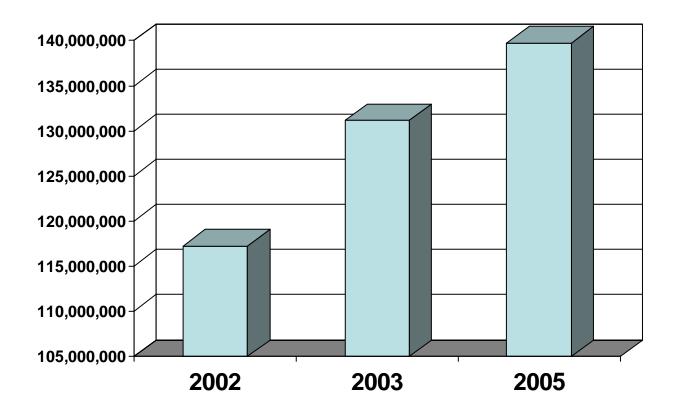
The following table identifies the number of active warrants, protection orders, stolen guns, and stolen vehicles stored in WACIC during the month of May from 2001-2006:

Washington Crime Information Center (WACIC)

Month/Year	May 2001	May 2002	May 2003	May 2004	May 2005	May 2006
Felony Warrants	46,592	47,344	48,136	47,314	47,748	48,521
Misdemeanor Warrants	174,213	188,097	169,126	176,740	145,088	148,319
Protection Orders	75,013	77,376	80,785	82,196	83,286	85,177
<b>Stolen Guns</b>	55,951	56,614	57,373	58,029	59,049	60,261
Stolen Vehicles	13,010	13,837	14,874	15,765	16,872	17,402

The following graph shows the number of transactions submitted by all law enforcement agencies and includes inquiries on stolen vehicles, stolen property, driver and vehicle registration information, wanted persons, criminal history, protection orders, wanted and missing persons, stolen property, and others.

#### ACCESS Annual Number of Transactions



## **Significant Accomplishments**

- The NCIC 2000 project was completed three weeks ahead of schedule and under budget.
- Encryption is in place between ACCESS and 68 of the 69 regional systems.
- User training was provided to over 800 law enforcement agency staff.
- The FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division has declared Washington State NCIC 2000 compliant.



The *Investigative Services Bureau (ISB)*consists of five divisions
that provide various
public safety services,
including the investigation
of computer crimes; missing

David J. Karnitz
Assistant Chief
Investigative Services

children; narcotics; dismantling of clandestine labs; performing high-risk warrant service; gathering of criminal intelligence; aviation; executive protection; homeland security; identity theft; campus security; and fatality and criminal

investigations. It also provides oversight responsibility for the agency's complaint and disciplinary procedures, including conducting major administrative investigations regarding serious allegations of employee misconduct.

## **Program Description**

The WSP's effort in organizing homeland security functions both internally and externally since September 11, 2001, has been fragmented across two bureaus and several divisions, making coordinating grant funding, agency and state initiatives, training, and strategic focus virtually impossible. Over the past year, however, the WSP has created a Homeland Security Coordination Group (HLSCG), which mainly focuses on current and future federal grants.

With the many demands on the WSP to support homeland security initiatives, both state and federal, creating a division with both operational and administrative functions to fully integrate all agency homeland security initiatives has become a necessity. The Vessel and Terminal Security (VATS) Division has created processes necessary to accomplish the expansion to the Homeland Security Division. With this transition, the WSP expects to expand on opportunities to address weaknesses in our homeland security strategy and build on agency strengths to address the emerging needs in homeland security.

The focus of the Homeland Security Division will be to ensure agency coordination in <u>mitigating</u> risk to the state's critical infrastructure, <u>preparing</u> through adequate planning for an all-hazards event, creating <u>response</u> protocols to an all-hazard event, and ensuring that a <u>recovery</u> process is in place to deal with the aftermath of the all-hazard event.

The Homeland Security Division encompasses VATS for the entire Washington State Ferries fleet and terminal security in Western Washington counties; command of the four WSP inter-agency bomb squads; canine handler training for explosives and narcotics canine teams; and agency homeland security coordination.

The division headquarters is located in Seattle, with additional offices in Bremerton, Poulsbo, Olympia, and Everett.

## **Qualitative or Quantitative Measurement**

Grant management continues to drive successful outcomes within the Homeland Security Division. Year to date, the division has developed over \$5 million in grant opportunities for the WSP.

Homeland Security Grant Opportunities			
Buffer Zone Protection – WSF Terminals	\$607,269		
Urban Area Security Initiative – 2004-1	\$106,969		
Urban Area Security Initiative – 2004-2	\$36,619		
Supplemental State Homeland Security Grant Program – 2003	\$951,650		
Urban Area Security Initiative – 2005	\$327,156		
Urban Area Security Initiative – 2006	\$1,100,00		
Law Enforcement Terrorism Protection Program – 2006	\$456,924		
Port Security – 2005	\$64,131		
Port Security – 2006	\$2,133,959		
Transportation Security Grant Program	\$530,062		
Ferry Passenger Partnership Program	\$19,200		
Total	\$5,233,939		

Most recently, the division worked with the United States Coast Guard on the ground-breaking interagency Port Security Grant, awarding eight regional tactical teams over \$2.1 million. This award provides for standardized equipment purchases, training, and exercises for members of the Tactical Support Group of the Area Maritime Security Committee, which the WSP co-chairs.

## **Significant Accomplishments**

The Homeland Security Division, Washington State Ferries (WSF), and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) partnered in a successful and dynamic joint training session aboard a Washington State ferry. The MV Kaleetan was moved from Anacortes to Eagle Harbor, Bainbridge Island, for scheduled service, which provided six hours of mobile training. Along with representatives from Camp Murray's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Civil Support Team, the King County Sheriff's Office, the Richland PD Bomb Squad, and the Seattle PD, the WSP, and the USCG were able to take advantage of a unique opportunity to train on and around an in-transit WSF vessel. The well-planned event included several terrorist and emergency incident scenarios. WSP Bomb, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), and K9 teams coordinated with the other agencies to execute multiple incident mitigation strategies. In all, over 100 first responder personnel demonstrated an ability to work closely together utilizing a diverse group of response capabilities and tactics to mitigate a wide range of emergency incidents. Additional training events with similar themes are being planned to include additional WSF first responder agencies and scenarios.

The Homeland Security Division continues to assist with the transition of the agency's Civil Disturbance Action Teams (CDAT) into Rapid Deployment Forces (RDF) capable of responding to all-hazards events in the state of Washington. The three tenants of RDF include:

- *Critical Infrastructure Protection* (terrorism prevention);
- Natural/Man-Made Disaster Response; and
- Civil Disturbance Management

The first part of the transition was to train every CDAT member in VATS protocols and explosives identification, which was accomplished through two training sessions—one in Seattle and the other in Spokane. The first deployment of the RDF squads occurred in the form of TRITON deployments. These deployments have provided WSF with additional law enforcement and security services, keeping the largest ferry system in the United States safe by randomly patrolling terminals and riding vessels in transit.



The Office of the State
Fire Marshal, Fire
Protection Bureau
(FPB), provides services
to fire districts,
government agencies,
members of the media, and the

Michael G. Matlick
Acting State Fire Marshal
Fire Protection

general public. These services include fire incident reporting and data collection; fire code review and adoption; construction plan review for fire sprinkler and alarm systems; and fire inspections of high-risk occupancies housing elderly and vulnerable populations. In addition, the bureau regulates the

fireworks and sprinkler industry through a licensing program. The State Fire Training Academy provides training to the state's fire departments and districts. The Fire Protection Bureau also provides coordination of Washington State fire service resources for mobilization during natural or human-caused disasters. Terrorism and hazardous materials training, fire and life safety prevention education, and public information services are also responsibilities of the Fire Protection Bureau.

## **Program Description**

**FIREFIGHTER I BASIC TRAINING:** Since 1986, the State Fire Marshal's Office, in partnership with fire departments in the state of Washington, has been recognized as a leading institution for training new firefighters.

Due to the facilities' logistical limitations and heavy usage demands, the number of basic firefighter classes conducted annually has been limited. As a result, the maximum number of firefighter candidates able to undergo the rigorous training has averaged out to 90 students per year.

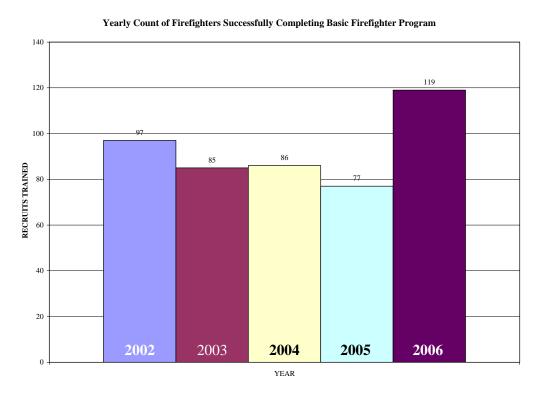
Over the past two years, the Fire Training Academy has experienced a registration increase for the Basic Firefighter program. However, many candidates are not selected or cannot participate due to financial reasons. Therefore, to meet the increased enrollment demand as well as make the training affordable, a 180-hour Basic Firefighter program has been established. This program is designed for volunteer firefighters who wish to be trained to the National Fire Protection Association Firefighter I level and are unable to attend the tenweek recruit academy. The course covers the basic fundamentals and prepares the candidates for the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) examinations. Successful candidates will receive IFSAC certification at the Firefighter I level. Candidates will also receive certificates of completion in Burn to Learn, Search and Rescue, Portable Fire Extinguishers, Hazardous Materials Awareness, Flammable Liquid Firefighting, and National Incident Management IS-700 and IMS-100.

To complete the 180 hours of Basic Firefighter training, candidates attend four hours of classroom instruction Friday evenings, and then perform eight hours of hands-on skills training on Saturday as well as Sunday. To enhance classroom comprehension and application of basic skills during the nine-week course, firefighters undergo 56 hours of live fire training.

On September 17, 2006, 23 Basic Firefighter candidates graduated from the first weekend academy.

## **Qualitative or Quantitative Measurement**

The chart below demonstrates the effect the 180-hour Basic Firefighter program will have by allowing the Fire Training Academy to train an additional 50 new firefighters per year.



**Significant Accomplishments** 

This program provides a template for fire departments within Washington State to use for training volunteer personnel to meet International Fire Service Accreditation Congress certification.



The Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau (FLSB) provides a wide range of forensic science expertise to city, county, and state law enforcement officers, assisting agencies at crime s

Dr. Barry K. Logan
Bureau Director
Forensic Laboratory Services

assisting agencies at crime scenes, preparing evidence for trials, and providing expert testimony. The bureau coordinates the efforts of the State's Breath Alcohol Test Program, Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program, six Crime Laboratories, the Latent Print Laboratory, and the State Toxicology Laboratory.

## **Program Description**

The Breath Test Program within the Impaired Driving Section continues to support the DUI enforcement efforts of all law enforcement agencies statewide by providing and supporting over 200 instruments available for evidential use. Washington's "per se" DUI statutory language, defining the offense as having 0.08 g/210L in the breath or more, results in the breath test being the most important evidence in a DUI trial. The Breath Test Program supports these enforcement efforts in these general areas: (1) provide periodic certification and maintenance of all breath test instruments; (2) train all agencies as Operators of the instruments; (3) maintain records and paperwork regarding all aspects of the program; (4) support a data collection and Web-based system that provides DUI arrest data and analyses along with discovery materials for the defense community; and (5) provide expert court testimony for all agencies in DUI trials and Department of Licensing hearings. The Breath Test Program employs 17 full-time personnel in order to accomplish its responsibilities for statewide support.

As a result of Washington's "per se" DUI language and the Implied Consent statute, approximately 95% of all individuals arrested for DUI statewide are administered a breath test. This amounts to over 40,000 individuals administered breath alcohol tests annually. These individuals are administered the breath test on the DataMaster instrument—the only approved instrument statewide. These instruments are located in police agencies throughout the state, which are readily accessible to all law enforcement officers at any time. The large number of subjects tested along with the statutory language results in many legal challenges and program demands for the Breath Test Program.

## **Qualitative or Quantitative Measurement**

The following summarizes several quantitative measures within the WSP Breath Test Program during the first three quarters of 2006:

• Over 30,000 individuals were offered breath tests on DataMaster instruments maintained by the Breath Test Program. Figure 1 below shows the total number of tests offered by year since 1989. The value for 2006 reflects just the first three quarters.

Total Number of Statewide DUI Arrests In Breath Test Program Database

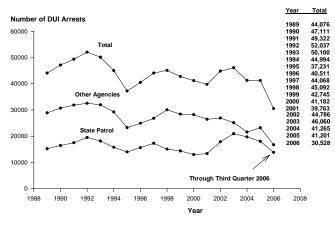


Figure 1 – The total number of breath tests offered by State Patrol, other agencies, and statewide per year since 1989. For 2006, the values represent up through the third quarter.

- Over 200 DataMaster instruments are maintained by the Breath Test Program for use by all law enforcement agencies.
- Approximately 1,500 police officers were trained during the first three quarters of 2006 by the Breath Test Program as certified operators.
- The Breath Test Program testified in approximately 225 hearings and trials statewide in response to challenges to the Administrative License Revocation or DUI prosecutions. These were in support of all law enforcement agencies.
- The Breath Test Program performed approximately 150 quality assurance procedures on instruments statewide. This is a mandated procedure that is very important to ensure the admissibility and credibility of breath test results in legal proceedings.
- The Breath Test Program performs certification testing and support of approximately 800 PBT breath test instruments statewide. Approximately 60% of WSP DUI arrests also involve the performance of a PBT test. Other agencies employ a PBT test in approximately 45% of their DUI arrests.

### **Significant Accomplishments**

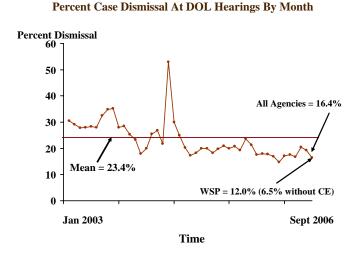
The following summarizes some of the major accomplishments of the Breath Test Program during the first three quarters of 2006:

• The Mobile Impaired Driving Unit (MIDU) was unveiled on April 28, 2006, in Seattle. The Impaired Driving Section developed the vehicle as a mobile processing center to be utilized throughout the state to combat drunk driving. The MIDU is a 36-foot

Winnebago motor home. The vehicle consists of three breath test instruments, two holding cells, and three report-writing stations.

- The MIDU has been used at 11 multi-day emphasis patrols around the state. Over 400 drunk drivers have been processed in the MIDU. One of the largest events was Seafair. Drug Recognition Experts were on marine patrol vessels to detect and arrest drunken boaters. During the three-day event, 133 boaters were arrested for boating under the influence. 32% of those arrested had a prior DUI conviction.
- The WEBDMS project continues to provide the vast majority of the discovery requests made by DUI defense attorneys statewide. This has saved a significant amount of resources within the Breath Test Program.
- The Washington State Supreme Court recently ruled in favor of the state in a decision involving the legislation for the admissibility of breath test evidence—Fircrest v. Jensen. This should result in more efficient DUI trials regarding the admissibility of breath test evidence. The Breath Test Program was significantly involved in the development and passage of this legislation.
- The Breath Test Program continues to work closely with the Department of Licensing (DOL) to reduce the number of Administrative License Revocation dismissals statewide. Figure 2 below shows the dismissal rate by month up through September 2006. This effort has been a great success, with the dismissal rates continuing to fall. If collateral estoppel is not included, the percent dismissals is even smaller.

Figure 2 – Plot of percent dismissals by DOL by month over the past three and one-half years.



• The Breath Test Program continues to monitor the rate at which troopers in each district are entering the correct liquor license codes. Figure 3 on the next page shows the percent

of cases where different license codes are entered by district for the first three quarters of 2006. The goal is to increase the total number of valid codes to near 100%. During training offered by the Breath Test Program, the importance of accurate code entry is emphasized. This data is provided by the Breath Test Program to the Liquor Control Board each month. This data summary is also provided to WSP district commanders for their review.

**Drinking Location Codes Entered by District for** 

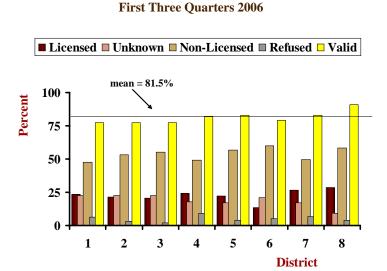


Figure 3 – Percent of liquor license codes entered by WSP operators by district for first three quarters of 2006.